

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ME

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SECTION 1

FAKE NEWS

HOW HAVE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS CHANGED THE WAY WE CONSUME AND UNDERSTAND INFORMATION?

I THINK THAT WHEN BIG INFLUENCERS POST SOMETHING PUBLICLY, (SOMETIMES) IT CAN BE EXTREMELY BIASED. THINGS LIKE POLITICS AND SUCH ARE TOPICS WHERE BIAS IS PROMINENT. THIS MAY LEAD TO MISINFORMATION SPREAD BY PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THESE BIASED INFLUENCERS, WHICH CAN CAUSE MORE CONFUSION UNTIL TRUE INFORMATION IS SHARED. ACCORDING TO FORBES IN 2018, MORE THAN HALF OF ALL INTERNET USERS GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA. THE WAY THAT PEOPLE CONSUME NEWS NOWADAYS LEADS TO MORE SENSATIONALISM AND FALSE INFORMATION.

WHEN YOU SEE OR READ “NEWS” ON SOCIAL MEDIA,
DO YOU TAKE TIME TO RESEARCH THE STORY
FURTHER?

I USUALLY DON'T READ THE NEWS, AND WHEN I DO, I'M USUALLY READING OFF A WEBSITE THAT'S TRUSTED (EG. BBC NEWS, FORBES, NY TIMES, ETC.) SO I DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH REASON TO RESEARCH MORE. TWITTER AND FACEBOOK AREN'T IDEAL AS NEWS SOURCES, AS IT'S FULL OF BIAS, CONTROVERSY AND MESSY POLITICS.



SECTION 2

SOCIAL MEDIA'S VALUE

WHAT VALUE DO YOU GET FROM ONLINE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS?

FIRSTLY, AS AN INTROVERT (ONE WHO IS PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF SPEAKING LOUDLY), I FIND THAT SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS PEOPLE "HEAR" ME BETTER. SECONDLY, WHEN I'M INTERACTING WITH OTHERS ONLINE, I GET A CHANCE TO READ OVER MY MESSAGE MULTIPLE TIMES TO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT OFFENSIVE. EVEN IF I DO POST AN OFFENSIVE MESSAGE TO MY FRIENDS, I AT LEAST HAVE A CHANCE TO DELETE IT BEFORE MY FRIEND READS IT. LASTLY, I FIND THAT I CAN MEET MORE PEOPLE ONLINE, AS THERE ISN'T ANY PHYSICAL RESTRAINT TO WHO I CAN INTERACT WITH.

HOW IS SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOCIAL CAPITAL HELPING TO FORM YOUTH CULTURE?

SOCIAL MEDIA IS FORMING YOUTH CULTURE BECAUSE INFLUENCERS ARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, WHO EFFECT THE ACTIONS OF YOUTH. SOCIAL CAPITAL IS IMPORTANT TO YOUTH CULTURE BECAUSE ADULTS HAVE TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION GOOD MORALS, LEADERSHIP, ETC. IT ALSO HELPS PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER IF THEY ALL HAVE SIMILAR NORMS, TRUST AND VALUES. ONE OF THE DOWNSIDES TO SOCIAL CAPITAL, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT MAY SUPPRESS ANY INNOVATION, AS IT CAN RESTRICT PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS TO THE SOCIAL NORMS THEY WERE TAUGHT.

WHEN YOU POST ONLINE, DO YOU CONSIDER HOW THE POST MAY BE SEEN BY OTHERS? WHAT MAY IT SAY ABOUT YOU? HOW WILL THAT POST BE SEEN IN THE FUTURE?

SINCE I DON'T USE ANY SORT OF PUBLIC FORM OF SOCIAL MEDIA (INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, ETC.) I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD EXACTLY DO. BUT IF I WERE TO POST ONLINE, I WOULD DEFINITELY THINK ABOUT WHAT OTHERS SEE FROM WHAT I POST. I WOULDN'T KNOW IF PEOPLE WOULD THINK THAT "MY LIFE IS BETTER THAN THEIRS" OR IF PEOPLE WOULD THINK THAT POSTING ONLINE IS JUST TO SHOW OFF AND IS ONLY FOR STATUS. I AVOID PUBLIC SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THIS REASON. I ALSO DON'T WANT TO POST ACCIDENTLY POST SOMETHING ONLINE THAT MAY BE SEEN OFFENSIVE IN THE FUTURE, WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY AFFECT MY LIFE.

SECTION 3

A FUTURE WHERE SOCIAL MEDIA TAKES OVER

DO YOU SEE ANY SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE WORLD PRESENTED IN THIS VIDEO AND THE WORLD YOU LIVE IN?

I SEE THAT IN THIS SOCIETY, CANCEL CULTURE IS A PROMINENT ISSUE. IN A NUTSHELL, CANCEL CULTURE IS WHEN A LARGE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE GATHER TO PUBLICLY SHAME A PERSON ON SOCIAL MEDIA. IN THE SOCIETY OF BLACK MIRROR, THIS HAPPENS A LOT MORE THAN IT DOES IN REAL LIFE. EVERYBODY HAS THIS SOCIETY HAS A "RATING" OF SORTS, WHICH SHOWS THEIR STATUS AND POPULARITY IN SOCIETY, AND EVERY TIME SOMEONE MAKES A MISTAKE, THEIR RATING GOES DOWN. SIMILARLY IN REAL LIFE, ON SOCIAL MEDIA, YOUR STATUS IS DETERMINED BY THE AMOUNT OF POPULARITY ONE HAS (EG. LIKES ON A POST). THIS STATUS ON SOCIAL MEDIA ALSO CARRIES OVER INTO THE REAL WORLD, WHICH CAN AFFECT ONE'S PERSONAL LIFE.

HOW DOES THE MAIN CHARACTER GAIN AND LOSE POINTS? WHY ARE THESE POINTS IMPORTANT TO HER?

WHEN SHE AND THE PERSON WORKING WITH HER WERE GOSSIPING ABOUT THE OTHER MAN BREAKING UP, SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE HEARD IT AND CONSEQUENTIALLY, HER RATING WENT DOWN. I THINK THAT THESE "POINTS" ARE SO IMPORTANT TO HER BECAUSE IF SHE HAS TOO FEW OF THEM, THEN EVERYTHING IN HER LIFE WITH GO DOWN SOUTH. ALSO, IT SEEMS THAT EVERYONE LIVING IN THIS SOCIETY SEEMS TO HAVE GROWN UP WITH THIS NOTION THAT "THESE POINTS MEAN EVERYTHING IN LIFE", SO IT MAKES SENSE THAT SHE WOULD CARE SO MUCH, AS THIS RATING CAN AFFECT HER LIFE ON SUCH A PERSONAL LEVEL. BECAUSE SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THESE POINTS DETERMINES EVERYTHING IN HER LIFE, SHE HAS TO FAKE HER LIFE AND HER MOOD EVERYDAY. EVEN IF SHE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THEM, EVERYONE ELSE DOES, AND SO THE POINTS WOULD STILL AFFECT HER LIFE.

WHAT VALUE MIGHT BE DERIVED FROM THIS TYPE OF SOCIAL INTERACTION?

IF PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO SEE A RATING BESIDE SOMEONE, THEY COULD QUICKLY CONCLUDE IF THE PERSON THEY'RE LOOKING AT IS A GOOD OR BAD PERSON. ADDED ONTO THE FACT THAT EVERYONE HAS TO ACT KIND IN THIS SOCIETY (WHETHER THEY WANT TO OR NOT), IF ONE WERE TO BE OBLIVIOUS TO THE FACT THAT EVERYONE AROUND THEM IS ONLY ACTING, IT WOULD BE A PARADISE, IN A WAY. IGNORANCE IS BLISS, AFTER ALL. IT WOULDN'T BE HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS (OR A SLIGHT VARIATION) SOCIETY WOULD BE SOMEONE'S IDEAL WORLD.

HOW ARE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS CHANGED IN THE WORLD OF THESE CLIPS?

IN THIS SOCIETY, IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY HAS TO TRY THEIR BEST TO ACT KIND WHENEVER THEY INTERACT WITH OTHERS. IF THEY ARE BRUTALLY HONEST OR EVEN RUDE IN ANY WAY, THEY LOSE POINTS. BUT IF ANYONE FINDS OUT ANOTHER PERSON WAS LYING/ACTING FAKE NICE, THEN THEIR POINTS ALSO GO DOWN. BECAUSE THESE POINTS ARE SO PRECIOUS TO EACH INDIVIDUAL IN THIS SOCIETY, THEY ALWAYS HAVE TO TAKE THE RISK OF BEING FAKE NICE AROUND PEOPLE.



SECTION 4

CRITICAL THINKING

HOW DID YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FACTS AND INTERPRETATIONS, OPINIONS AND JUDGEMENTS?

USUALLY, I FIND THAT MOST THINGS I READ STATE IF IT IS AN OPINION, INTERPRETATION, FACT, ETC. IF IT DOESN'T STATE IT, THEN I WOULD CHECK THE SITE TO SEE IF IT IS A GOOD SOURCE. I WOULD DO THIS BY LOOKING AT THE WEBSITE DESIGN (BETTER USUALLY = MORE TRUSTWORTHY), IF IT IS A WELL-KNOWN NAME, OR JUST BY LOOKING IT UP. AND IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, THEN I WOULD JUST TRY TO DISCARD THE INFORMATION, AS IT'S NOT WORTH IT TO TRUST SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW IS TRUE.

HOW DID YOU ANALYZE EVIDENCE FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES?

WHEN I RESEARCH A TOPIC ONLINE, I (WHEN I'M INTERESTED ENOUGH) TRY TO FIND ARTICLES AND OTHER FORMS OF INFORMATION ON THE TOPIC. THIS WAY, FINDING BIAS IN ARTICLES IS EASIER, AS I CAN TAKE A MORE TRUSTED SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND HAVE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

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